



FOR SOME CHILDREN THE ONLY NORMAL THING ABOUT A BIRTHDAY PARTY IS **NOT** HAVING ONE.

We make sure that doesn't happen.

Our Mission

The mission of Birthday Wishes is to improve and empower the lives of homeless children and their families by providing **joy, play and hope** through the magic of a birthday party. Our goal is to ensure that children experiencing the trauma of homelessness have the opportunity to celebrate their birthday joyfully, surrounded by family, friends and others who care.

Our Program

Our birthday parties have the power to make children feel both special and like a "regular kid". We provide much more than just cake, presents and goody bags. Birthday Wishes parties bring joy, hope and positive lasting memories.



Every month we deliver a Birthday-in-a-Box to children throughout New England, Long Island & New York City. Each brightly wrapped box is filled with party supplies, decorations, cake mix, frosting, goody bags, birthday gifts and of course candles for the all-important birthday wish. Our older teens receive a Teen-Birthday-in-a-Box with smaller gifts, a custom cookie and a gift card.

BIRTHDAY WISHES YEAR AT A GLANCE*

Since **2002** over **110,000** homeless children have experienced a Birthday Wishes party.

BIRTHDAY KIDS
CELEBRATED
5,016



WHO WE SERVE

Homeless Children Ages 1-17
living in shelters or
transitional living facilities.



BIRTHDAY
CANDLES LIT
44,674



17,500+
GIFTS WRAPPED
AND DELIVERED



200+ Shelter Partners in 6 States

*Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

BIRTHDAY WISHES HISTORY

Birthday Wishes is founded in Newton, MA and we throw our first birthday party for 5 year old Muhammad at the Second Step Shelter.

Nov 2002

Birthday Wishes expands into Long Island New York.

Apr 2009

Founder and Executive Director Lisa Vasiloff announces her retirement and Denell Nuese is named as the new Executive Director.

Feb 2020

Birthday Wishes introduces the Teen Birthday-in-a-Box, a new type of Birthday-in-a-Box for older teens with items and gifts more appropriate for this age group.

July 2022

Jan 2004

Birthday Wishes incorporates and receives 501c3 status.

Mar 2019

Birthday Wishes moves to a new space in Natick, MA to accommodate our growing operations with a larger warehouse and office space.

April 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Birthday Wishes discontinues on-site parties and starts providing a Birthday-in-a-Box to each individual child.

Aug 2023

Birthday Wishes expands further into Connecticut and begins serving a shelter in Los Angeles, CA

MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Birthday parties are a common event in the lives of most families, but for children experiencing homelessness, families may be unable to maintain their routines and rituals. Birthday Wishes ensures that children are not denied this important rite of passage simply because of their living situation. "Children who attended a Birthday Wishes party reported higher levels of happiness, hope and empowerment." -The Impact of Birthday Celebration: An Exploratory Evaluation of Birthday Wishes



"I wanted to say thank you for the [Baby BIRTHday Bundle]. It made me a little emotional because post partum has been incredibly difficult on me, as I am doing all this alone for the second time. I've never received such a thoughtful gift. The presentation was really cute and no one has ever done something like that for me. I am super appreciative and thankful. Thank you for thinking of my daughter and I. It made my day. Genuinely, wishing the best for the person or people who gave me the gift."

-Brianna, Program Recipient



"The Birthday Wishes program helps our residents with celebrating their child and developing a sense of community with their peers in the program. Last month we had two toddlers turning 2 years old and each mother was able to use the supplies in the birthday box to decorate the dining room, bake birthday cakes and have a joint celebration bringing the whole house together!"

-Teen Program Manager



"We are so thankful for the Birthday Wishes program! Birthday celebrations are so important for children and these milestones can be significantly impacted by the experience of being homeless and living in a shelter. The lovingly wrapped and selected Birthdays-in-a-Box provided by Birthday Wishes always puts a smile on the faces of the kids receiving them and supports parents in ensuring that their child's birthday can be celebrated!"

-Shelter Manager

www.birthdaywishes.org



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New England: @birthdaysmatters
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